



NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**JUNEAU GUIDES CHARGED WITH ILLEGAL BROWN BEAR
HUNTING ON ADMIRALTY ISLAND**

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced that on January 29, 2008, Juneau residents Larry Hooton, age 69, and his son Shawn Hooton, age 41, were charged by the United States Attorney with violations of the Lacey Act for illegally taking brown bear on Admiralty Island National Monument.

The information alleges that in 2004, the Hootons illegally guided out-of-state hunters on Admiralty Island National Monument by guiding more hunters and taking more brown bears than allowed by permit. They were not permitted to conduct more than one hunt on Admiralty Island; however, in excess of that one permitted hunt, the Hootons guided three additional clients who each killed a brown bear, all of which were in excess of the one client/one bear permit. In furtherance of the illegal activity the defendants claimed in hunt records filed with the State of Alaska Department of Occupational Licensing that the additional three brown bears were taken “below mean high tide” when in fact the bears were taken and the clients were guided over National Forest lands on Admiralty Island.

The maximum penalties for the felony violation of the Lacey Act charged against Larry Hooton is a term of five years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, followed by a three-year term of supervised release. The maximum penalties for the misdemeanor violation of the Lacey Act charged against Shawn Hooton is a term of one year imprisonment, a fine of \$100,000, and a five-year term of probation. The information also seeks criminal forfeiture of the Hootons’ inflatable dinghies used during the violations.

An arraignment date has not been set.

The case was investigated by the United States Forest Service, Law Enforcement and Investigations, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Law Enforcement, with the assistance of the Alaska State Troopers, Division of Wildlife Protection.

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